

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

## **Steering Committee Meeting**

Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

2:00 PM

*IMRP Conference Room, Downtown Campus*

*Central Connecticut State University*

*New Britain, CT*

**Members Present:** John Santa (Acting Chair); Vivien K. Blackford; Atty. Kevin Kane; Hon. Patrick L. Carroll; and Atty. Thomas J. Ullmann.

**Staff:** Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), and Atty. Leland Moore (Staff)

**Also Participating:** Maureen Price-Boreland and Andrew Clark

## **MINUTES**

### **I. MEETING CONVENED**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:10 p.m.

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 4.26.16 MEETING**

The minutes of the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### **III. STRATEGIC ACTION PLANNING**

Ms. Price-Boreland and Atty. Moore presented draft bylaw articles concerning the Commission's voting procedure and committee structure. The committee indicated that it found proposed articles four and five to be favorable with some minor amendments (see attached). The committee asked that Ms. Price-Boreland and Atty. Moore continue their work on an article that eliminates existing standing committees and provides for the appointment of special committees with the approval of Steering.

### **VI. RESEARCH UPDATE**

#### *a. Pretrial Release and Detention*

Acting Chairman Santa provided an update on Commission's evaluation of pretrial release and detention. Committee members discussed the evaluation

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and considered a request from members of the bail industry to present before the full Commission. The Committee discussed the role of advocacy and interest groups in the Commission's decision-making process and noted that only individuals associated with a governmental body or academic institution have presented before the Commission to date. Committee members expressed their concerns that allowing individuals to present on subjects currently under consideration by Commission researchers and advisory team members might not be consistent with the Commission's previous delegation of authority to those groups. The Committee decided that it would be best to defer to those involved in the ongoing evaluation and that the bail industry would be permitted to present before the Commission's pretrial release and detention advisory group.

*b. Diversionary Programs*

Mr. Tsarkov provided a brief update on the status of this evaluation and that a meeting with Judicial Branch Court Support Services was forthcoming.

*c. Sex Offender Study*

Atty. Ullmann provided an update on the work of the special committee on sex offenders.

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

The next meeting was scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 2:30PM.

## **VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED**

Acting Chairman Santa adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

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## Article IV –Meetings

**Section 4.1. Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings shall occur at least once during each calendar quarter. The schedule of meetings for the year shall be determined at the last meeting of the Commission in the preceding year.

**Section 4.2. Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called by the chair. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call, which shall be sent to all members at least three days before the meeting.

**Section 4.3. Voting.** Each member present at any meeting of the Commission shall be entitled to one vote.

**Section 4.4 Proxy Voting.** Except as authorized by the chair, no member may participate or vote by delegate sent to act as proxy in a member's absence. A member may participate or vote via telephone or other electronic means if necessary.

**Section 4.5. Quorum.** Twelve (12) members of the Commission constitutes a quorum. A quorum shall be required for the Commission to act. Members authorized to participate and vote under section 4.4 shall be considered present and count toward quorum.

**Section 4.6. Resolutions.** Official recommendations concerning criminal justice policy, procedure, or legislation shall be made via written resolution approved by a two thirds roll call vote of the entire membership with dissenting opinions recorded. The Commission, shall strive for consensus on official recommendations whenever possible.

## Article V – Steering Committee

**Section 5.1. Composition.** The Steering Committee shall consist of the officers of the Commission; the Chief State's Attorney; the Chief Court Administrator; the Chief Public Defender; the undersecretary of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division within the Office of Policy and Management; and three (3) Commission members appointed by the Commission Chair. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member without a vote.

**Section 5.2. Term of Office for Appointed Members.** Commission members appointed to the Steering Committee shall serve for a term of two years.

**Section 5.3. Duties and Powers.** The Steering Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Commission between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Commission, appoint special committees, and perform such other duties as are specified in these bylaws.

**Section 5.4. Meetings.** Special meetings of the Steering Committee may be called by the chair or upon written request of three (3) members of the Steering Committee.